

# WEATHER SAFETY RULES

## **Flash Flooding Safety Rules**

Flash floods and floods are the #1 weather related killer in Kentucky and across the United States. In 2003, four people in Kentucky lost their lives due to flash flooding.

- ☐ If Driving, ***DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS!*** Even if it looks shallow enough to cross. The large majority of deaths due to flash flooding are due to people driving through flooded areas. Water only one foot deep can displace 1500 lbs! Two feet of water can EASILY carry most automobiles! Roadways concealed by floodwaters may not be intact.
- ☐ If caught outside, go to higher ground immediately! Avoid small rivers or streams, low spots, culverts, or ravines. Do not try to walk through flowing water more than ankle deep, as it only takes six inches of water to knock you off your feet. Do not allow children to play around streams, drainage ditches or viaducts, storm drains, or other flooded areas
- ☐ If ordered to evacuate or if rising water is threatening, leave immediately and get to higher ground!

## **Lightning Safety Rules**

Lightning is the number two weather related killer. In Kentucky, more people are killed by lightning in an average year than tornadoes. Although Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are NOT issued for lightning, you should move to shelter when thunder is heard as lightning can strike 10 to 15 miles away from where the rain is falling.

- ☐ If outside, go to a safe shelter immediately, such as inside a sturdy building. A hard top automobile with the windows up can also offer fair protection.
- ☐ If you are boating or swimming, get out of the water immediately and move to a safe shelter away from the water!
- ☐ If you are in a wooded area, seek shelter under a thick growth of relatively small trees.
- ☐ If you feel your hair standing on end, squat with your head between your knees. **Do not lie flat!**
- ☐ ***Avoid:*** Isolated trees or other tall objects, bodies of water, sheds, fences, convertible automobiles, tractors, and motorcycles.
- ☐ If inside, avoid using the telephone (except for emergencies) or other electrical appliances.
- ☐ Do not take a bath or shower.

## **Tornado and High Wind Safety Rules**

The greatest danger from tornadoes and high winds associated with severe thunderstorms is flying

debris. It is important that you take shelter during Tornado ***AND*** Severe Thunderstorm Warnings.

- ☐ In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, preferably a basement or underground shelter and get under something sturdy.
- ☐ If an underground shelter is not available, move to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- ☐ Stay away from windows.
- ☐ Get out of Automobiles.
- ☐ Do not attempt to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave it immediately for safe shelter.
- ☐ If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. DO NOT seek shelter under a highway overpass.
- ☐ Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. You should leave the mobile home and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building or storm shelter.